One of the ancestors of the "steel frame" was Gornwallis. Besides creating a new landlord class, he created a new governing class by deliberately excluding Indians from the highest posts. He wrote that *'every native of Hindustan, I veritably believe, is corrupt."[1] Cornwallis seems to have been the forerunner of Lord Morley, whose distrust of "natives in positions of high responsibility" was undisguised.

But Cornwallis also animadverts on the corruption of English officials whom" he suspected of "being deeply engaged in private trade." He tried to deal with corruption by the attraction of higher salaries, but he did not extend this to the Indian ranks. Very different from earlier officers (as we shall see), his knowledge of the country was limited and his insight into the character of the people was superficial. Ignorance was aggravated by lack of imaginative sympathy. Though he lived unostentatiously, Cornwallis began to increase that seclusion and lack of contact with the people which later became so general. "Cornwallis seems to have forgotten that for centuries prior to the introduction of the Western agency, law and justice had been administered solely by natives; yet society had been held together and there had been times when . . . India had been populous and flourishing, the people thriving and happy" (Mill and Wilson's *History of India}.* This egregious belief in the incorruptibility of the British and the general venality of Indians has survived to this day among certain Englishmen, and I found an example of it recently in the case of a certain military official who assured me that India could never govern herself because the people were inherently dishonest!

Sir John Shore was narrower in his outlook than Cornwallis, and a contemporary described him as having a universal prejudice against the people of India. He, as in many

[1] Munro, however, said that tiie people of India were "simple, harmless, Honest, and have as much truth in them as any men in the world.'*